

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
  - a. providing one or more injecting wellbores to an underground coal formation;
  - b. sealing all other boreholes to said underground coal formation to which burning could channel from one or more of said injecting wells;
  - ~~a.c.~~ injecting an oxidizing gas through said one or more injecting a wellbores and into ~~an~~ said underground coal formation;
  - ~~b.d.~~ igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
  - ~~e.e.~~ injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said one or more injecting wellbores.
2. (Original) A method of claim 1 further comprising:  
extinguishing the burning coal.
3. (Original) A method of claim 1 further comprising:  
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.
4. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with oxygen.

5. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.
6. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said cooling media is water.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising: ~~of claim 1~~
  - a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation;
  - b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
  - c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and  
wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.
8. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising: ~~of claim 1~~
  - a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation;
  - b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
  - c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and  
wherein the predetermined amount of cooling media is a quantity sufficient for the BTU value of the cooling media, air and coal is 60% or less of BTU value of the air and coal.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
  - a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation, said oxidizing gas being injected at a pressure substantially equal to or the

fracturing exceeding the fracturing-formation pressure of said coal formation;

- b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
- c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore.

11. (Original) A method of claim 10 further comprising:  
extinguishing the burning coal.

12. (Original) A method of claim 10 further comprising:  
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.

13. (Original) A method of claim 12 further comprising:  
extinguishing the burning coal.

14. (Original) A method of claim 10 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising: of claim 10

a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation, said oxidizing gas being injected at a pressure substantially equal to or exceeding fracturing pressure of said coal formation;

- b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and

wherein the predetermined amount of cooling media is a quantity sufficient for the BTU value of the cooling media, air and coal is 60% or less of BTU value of the air and coal.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 10 wherein said oxidizing ~~oxidizing~~ gas is injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 15 wherein said oxidizing ~~oxidizing~~ gas is injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

18. (Original) A method for fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:

- a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
- b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
- c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
- d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore.

19. (Original) A method of claim 18 further comprising:  
extinguishing the burning coal.

20. (Original) A method of claim 18 further comprising:  
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.

21. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with oxygen.

22. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.
23. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein said cooling media is water.
24. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.
25. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.
26. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein said oxidizing gas is injected at a pressure substantially equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.
27. (New) A method for the production of clean gas from a coal formation comprising:
- a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
  - b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
  - c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
  - d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore;
  - e. extinguishing the burning coal; and
  - f. removing gas from said underground coal bearing formation through said wellbore.
28. (New) A method for the production of clean gas from a coal formation comprising:

- a. providing one or more injecting wellbores to an underground coal formation;
- b. sealing all other boreholes to said underground coal formation to which a burning could channel from one or more of said injecting wells during the time coal is being burned in said formation;
- c. injecting an oxidizing gas through said one or more injecting wellbores and into said underground coal formation;
- d. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- e. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said one or more injecting wellbores;
- f. extinguishing the burning coal; and
- g. removing gas from said underground coal bearing formation through one or more of said wellbores.